

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 FRB-01
INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06
SP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15 STR-06
CEA-01 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 L-03 AGRE-00 /100 W
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R 111004Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4666
INFO AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

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USEEC ALSO FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: UNIONS CONTINUE TO REFUSE PARTICIPATION IN
"CONCERTED ACTION"

REF: (A) BONN 20243 (1977); (B) BONN 20738 (1977);
(C) BONN 11319 (1977)
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SUMMARY: EFFORTS BY ECONOMICS MINISTER GRAF LAMBSDORFF
(FDP) TO BRING THE UNIONS BACK TO THE "CONCERTED
ACTION" (A ROUND TABLE OF GOVERNMENT, LABOR, MANAGEMENT,
BUNDESBAND AND ECONOMIC EXPERTS SET UP TO DISCUSS AND
EVALUATE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS AND PROSPECTS) HAVE
FAILED. CONVERSATIONS BETWEEN LAMBSDORFF AND DGB

PRESIDENT VETTER IN THE DUESSELDORF DGB HEADQUARTERS ON JANUARY 9 ENDED WITHOUT ANY CONCRETE RESULT. VETTER INDICATED HIS READINESS TO MEET WITH EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES FOR DISCUSSIONS ON THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM. MEANWHILE, CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT (SPD) PLANS TO INVITE VETTER AND LEADING MANAGEMENT REPRESENTATIVES FOR SEPARATE DISCUSSIONS ON THE ECONOMIC SITUATION. END SUMMARY.

1. LAMBSDORFF REPORTED THAT THE TWO-HOUR CONVERSATION HAD CENTERED AROUND POSSIBILITIES FOR A RESUMPTION OF THE "CONCERTED ACTION" TALKS, THE REMOVAL OF "OBSTACLES" AND HAD SERVED AS AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS. NO RESULT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED, HOWEVER. RESPONDING TO RENEWED UNION COMPLAINTS OVER THE EMPLOYERS' SUIT AGAINST THE CODE-TERMINATION LAW (REF C), LAMBSDORFF STATED THAT HE WAS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE MANAGEMENT ACTION.

2. VETTER VOICED DOUBTS THAT THE "CONCERTED ACTION" COULD EVER BE REVIVED IN ITS OLD SHAPE. HE INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT REGARDLESS OF THE EMPLOYERS' CURRENTLY PENDING CONSTITUTIONAL SUIT AGAINST THE CODETERMINATION LAW (WHICH IS WHY THE UNIONS ORIGINALLY WITHDREW FROM THE CONCERTED ACTION TALKS), THE UNIONS WOULD BE READY TO MEET WITH EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES "IF THE SOLUTION OF THE UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM IS AT STAKE" SINCE UNCLASSIFIED

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UNEMPLOYMENT REMAINS THE "TOPIC NO. 1" FOR THE DGB.

3. THE CHANCELLOR PLANS TO MEET WITH DGB PRESIDENT VETTER SOME TIME NEXT WEEK FOR A BROAD AND OVERALL DISCUSSION ON ECONOMIC AND EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS. AFTER THE MEETING WITH VETTER, HE WILL HAVE SIMILAR TALKS WITH EMPLOYERS' REPRESENTATIVES.

4. A FEW DAYS EARLIER, AT A NEW YEAR'S RECEPTION SPONSORED BY THE HESSE DGB REGIONAL ORGANIZATION, THE PRESIDENT OF THE DGB PUBLIC SERVICE AND TRANSPORT WORKERS UNION (OETV), KLUNCKER, LAUNCHED SHARP ATTACKS AGAINST THE COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISORS AND CATEGORICALLY REFUSED ANY FUTURE PARTICIPATION IN THE "CONCERTED ACTION" IN ITS PRESENT FORM. REFERRING TO THE COUNCIL'S RECENT "RECOMMENDATIONS ON WAGE SETTLEMENTS" (REF A), KLUNCKER SAID THAT SUCH RECOMMENDATIONS ARE "ILLEGAL", THAT THEY INFRINGE UPON FREE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AND THAT IT WOULD BE "WORTHWHILE CONSIDERING WHETHER TAX FUNDS SHOULD BE SPENT FOR A PAPER WHICH IS NOT ORIENTED TOWARD LEGAL COMMITMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS". HE ALSO MAINTAINED THAT ECONOMICS

MINISTER GRAF LAMBSDORFF IS WRONG WHEN POINTING OUT
THAT THE "CONCERTED ACTION" REMAINS ALIVE ON ITS OWN
SINCE IT IS AN INSTITUTION BASED ON THE ECONOMIC
STABILITY LAW.
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